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THE MENTOR

PIONEERS OF THE
GREAT WEST

By
GEORGE S. BRYAN

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY

VOLUME 8
NUMBER 1

TWENTY CENTS A COPY

PIONEERS! O PIONEERS!

Have the elder races halted?
Do they droop and end their lesson, wearied over there beyond the seas?
We take up the task eternal, and the burden and the lesson,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

All the past we leave behind,
We debouch upon a newer mightier world, varied world,
Fresh and strong the world we seize, world of labor and the march,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

We detachments steady throwing,
Down the edges, through the passes, up the mountains steep,
Conquering, holding, daring, venturing as we go the unknown ways,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

We primeval forests felling,
We the rivers stemming, vexing we and piercing deep the mines within,
We the surface broad surveying, we the virgin soil upheaving,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

O to die advancing on!
Are there some of us to droop and die? Has the hour come?
Then upon the march we fittest die, soon and sure the gap is fill'd,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

All the pulses of the world,
Falling in they beat for us, with the Western movement beat,
Holding single or together, steady moving to the front, all for us,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

—Walt Whitman.

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VOLUME 8

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PIONEERS EMIGRATING FROM CONNECTICUT TO EASTERN OHIO, 1805

Distance, 600 miles; time, 90 days

PIONEERS OF THE WEST

By GEORGE S. BRYAN

Author of "Sam Houston," etc.



MENTOR GRAVURES



By courtesy of the sculptor, Elsie Ward

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

From a photograph of the model
for the statue which was erected
at the Louisiana Purchase Ex-
position, St. Louis, 1904

DANIEL BOONE

DAVID CROCKETT

JOHN CHARLES FRÉMONT

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

STEPHEN FULLER AUSTIN

CHRISTOPHER CARSON



UNTIL well into the eighteenth century, English settlement in America had been mainly confined to a narrow fringe along the Atlantic seaboard. That so it might remain seemed not impossible. Under gifted leaders the French had with zealous enterprise penetrated to the heart of the continent; and the French crown claimed dominion southward to the Gulf and vaguely westward to the Rockies. To the English colonists the Appalachian mountain-system—which sometimes they called the "Great Mountains"—appeared a barrier formidable and impressive to an extent that now we can hardly realize. Even after the best routes had been marked out and the menace of Indian enemies removed, the crossing of it was long to the popular mind a thing of uncommon toil and difficulty. Yet the English settlers, if they moved deliberately across the coastal

PIONEERS OF THE WEST

region, also occupied it as intensively as conditions permitted. It is said that by 1700 it was possible, in journeying from southern Virginia to Portland, Maine, to pass each night in a sizable village. Westward movement into unoccupied lands gradually became for Americans no less inevitable than their struggle toward political independence. With that movement began what has well been termed the second American colonial period; and a new race arose—the American pioneers.

To the able if arrogant Lieutenant-Governor Spotswood of Virginia belongs the honor of having been, so far as definite records are concerned, the first explorer of the Appalachians. About his expedition of 1716 clings a suggestion of the romance that surrounds the Spanish *conquistadores*, “with lance and helm and prancing steed, glittering through the wilderness.”

With a party of fifty he climbed the Blue Ridge by way of the upper Rappahannock; crossed the Shenandoah, which he christened Euphrates; and took solemn possession for His Majesty George the First. Having taken eight weeks to cover 440 miles, he returned to Williamsburg preceded by trumpeters, and presented to his comrades jewel-studded horseshoes inscribed: *Sic juvat transcendere montes* (Thus 'tis our pleasure to go o'er the mountains)—the allusion being to the fact that for mountain-work the horses had been shod with iron shoes, not then used in lowland Virginia. This picturesque enterprise led to nothing. The first white men to cross the Great Mountains and enter the central plain were probably wandering hunters who, in following game-trails, also followed streams to the sources and penetrated many a cove and notch. Southwestward from Central Pennsylvania the Appalachians run in parallel ranges through West Virginia and Virginia, eastern Tennessee and the western Carolinas, into northern Georgia. Along the furrows between these parallel ridges, emigrants from Pennsylvania began about the middle of the eighteenth century to pass toward the new country they called “the West.” The manner of their going was much like that of emigrants across the plains in later days: the women and young children in



EMIGRATION TO THE WESTERN COUNTRY



CROSSING THE PLAINS

From drawings by F. O. C. Darley

PIONEERS OF THE WEST

canvas-covered wagons, prototypes of the "prairie-schooner"; the men and boys on horseback at front and rear, driving the cattle. Thus the Quaker Boones went from Berks county, near the Schuylkill, in Pennsylvania, to northwestern North Carolina; a region where then the bison were so abundant that three or four men, with dogs, could kill from ten to twenty in a day. One of the Boone boys was Daniel (1734-1820), who became and has remained the typical pioneer figure.

The Pioneer Woodsmen

When we say that Daniel Boone and others like him were woodsmen, we mean that with the minimum of outfit they could make their way through the wilderness and there live for long periods with no outside aid. They knew herbs and trees—the ways of game and of Indians. They could improvise shelter, and, in the open, prepare simple, sufficient food. An important item of their dietary was parched and pulverized Indian corn. Men of the Boone stamp could outmarch military regulars and outmaneuver redskins. Despite the disadvantage of rifles less accurate than those of to-day, and of inferior loads, they were surpassing marksmen. Of frontier riflemen Richard Henry Lee wrote in 1775: "There is not one of these men who wish (wishes) a distance less than 200 yards or a larger object than an orange. Every shot is fatal." About 900 of them won the battle of King's Mountain (October 7, 1780) and thus turned the tide against Cornwallis in the South. The figures tell the tale. The British loss, out of some



BISON HUNTING

From a drawing by W. L. Hudson



A HERD OF BISON

On a lake-dotted prairie

1,100 engaged, was placed at 119 killed, 123 wounded, and 664 prisoners; the American, at only 28 killed and 62 wounded. The woodsmen's outer clothing was of skins; commonly in the main of deer-skin, treated not by tanning but by a process of soaking, scraping, stretching, rubbing with the brains of the animal, and smoking. This deer-skin was pliable, quiet, lasting, inconspicuous, warm in winter,

thorn-proof, and too smooth to collect burrs; but when wet it was far from pleasant wear. It could be fashioned in the wilderness, with no apparatus or materials save those readily at hand; and, with local modifications, continued to be worn on the shifting American frontier.

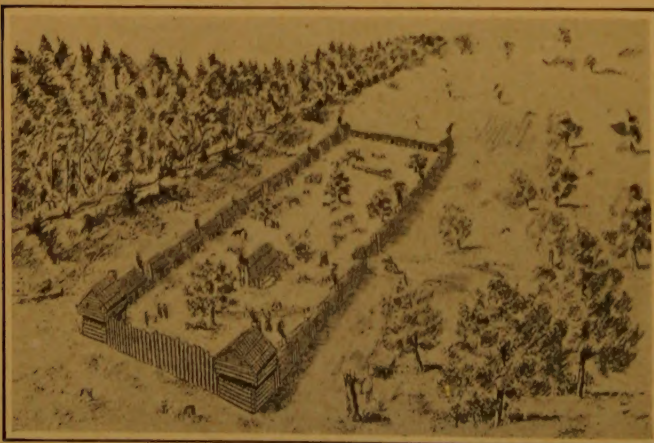
Shelby and Sevier

Of those who led the sharpshooters at King's Mountain, two were further celebrated in pioneer annals—Isaac Shelby (1750-1826) and John Sevier (1745-1815), famed as Indian fighters, and first governors respectively of Kentucky and Tennessee. Sevier was identified with a little-known chapter in American history. From 1769 to 1772, in what is now northeastern Tennessee, on lands then included in the colony of North Carolina, sprang up settlements of worthy folk to whom North Carolina gave neither recognition nor protection. The settlers proceeded to organize into the Watauga Association, with a form of government by committees. Thus, before the seaboard colonies had begun to fight for independence, these dissatisfied mountaineers had in a manner asserted it. At the Revolution the little community was, on its own petition, formally annexed to North Carolina. After the war, North Carolina offered to cede to the Federal government her western lands; and then the men of Watauga, ignored in the matter of the cession, formed a new state, called Franklin; adopted a constitution; and chose a legislature which elected the popular Sevier governor. Taxes were levied, payable, in lieu of money, in such things as bacon, fox-pelts, and whiskey. Factional differences soon developed; the state of Franklin crumbled; and Sevier, its



SIMON KENTON

From a portrait by L. W. Morgan

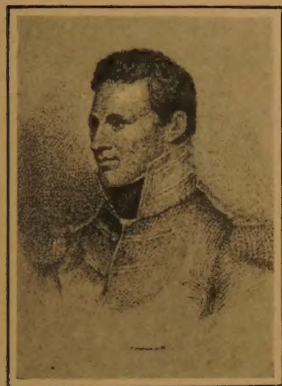


FORT BOONESBOROUGH

As it appeared just before the siege of September, 1778

only governor, was arrested for treason. Allowed to escape, he saw the western North Carolina lands finally ceded to the Federal government (1790) as the "Territory south of the River Ohio"; and was a representative in Congress from the State of Tennessee, into which the territory was afterward formed (admitted June 1, 1796).

PIONEERS OF THE WEST



ZEBULON PIKE

James Robertson

James Robertson (1742-1814), prominent in the Watauga community, led thence a company to French Lick, where he founded Nashborough (1780), the present Nashville. On the bluff above the Cumberland a central fort was built; outside this, along the river, the cabins of the settlers were roughly grouped around several "stations"—stockaded refuges defended by blockhouses. Such forts and stations followed pretty closely the general plan of Boonesborough, as shown in one of the accompanying illustrations. Some of the forts were fit to offer stout and long resistance to besiegers

armed with nothing more effective than rifles. The "advance guard of civilization" at Nashborough suffered sorely from the hostility of Cherokees and Creeks, but Robertson's heroic direction averted utter ruin. After the Revolution, the treaty of Paris (1783) fixed the Mississippi as the western boundary of the United States; and by way of Nashborough (Nashville) part of the increasing tide of immigration moved to the Mississippi valley. Of early settlers beyond the Great Mountains it was no less true than it had been of early settlers along the Atlantic, that they plowed and worshiped with rifle ready, and slept with one eye open. It was true straight across the continent, wherever the white man had to encounter that ablest of his savage foes, the American Indian. In the narratives of Colonel R. I. Dodge, the redman of the plains parallels the redman of the woods with those cruelties that to both were but exploits of legitimate warfare. It must be admitted, too, that sometimes the whites retaliated with equal ferocity.



AN EMIGRANT CAMP ON THE PLAINS



A DETACHMENT OF ONE OF FRÉMONT'S PARTIES
In temporary camp

Kenton, Clark and Wayne

An Indian-fighter and scout of that period, with contemporary renown second to that of Boone alone, was simple-hearted Simon

PIONEERS OF THE WEST

Kenton (1755-1836), who, faring into the Ohio country, in 1787 with Joseph May laid out a town at Limestone (now Maysville), a point on the Ohio River where there had long been a landing-spot for the bullet-proof flat-boats that brought from Pittsburg (Fort Pitt) fresh throngs of settlers. Kenton, with a Kentucky party, also reared (1799) fourteen cabins and a fort near Mad River in what is now Clark county, Ohio, thus founding a settlement that later was moved a few miles eastward and became the present Springfield. Kenton once escaped death by Indian torture through the interference of Simon Girty (1741-1818), a bloodthirsty Irish renegade to whose credit nothing else is told. Girty (who had lived with the Senecas) served the British as an interpreter in the Revolution, and afterward fought with the Indians whose forays against the American frontier he did all he could to encourage. The notorious Simon and his brothers James (1743-1817) and George (1745-1812), also renegades, formed a family trio of "bad men," infamous throughout all the western marches. As enemies of society, they

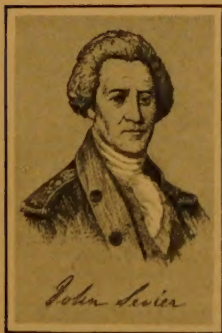


WILLIAM CLARK

From the painting by Charles Willson Peale, in Independence Hall, Philadelphia

found worthy successors in the "border-ruffians," outlaws, and desperadoes of after-days. Always, however, such individuals were in the minority; and especially was this true among the trans-Appalachian pioneers, who indeed sought a freer life in a land where quit-rents and tax-gatherers would cease from troubling, but who had no kinship with anarchy or license. The form of compact entered into by Robertson's isolated colonists stated that "until the full and proper exercise of the laws of our country can be in use and the powers of government exerted among us, we do most

solemnly and sacredly declare and promise each other that we will . . . at all times, if need be, compel, by our united force, a due obedience to these our rules and regulations." This was also essentially the spirit of the trans-Mississippi "vigilance committees" in California, Idaho, and Montana; maintained, if need was, against venal judge or treacherous sheriff.



John Sevier

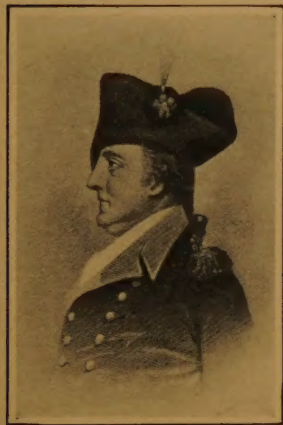


CONVEYING AN EMIGRANT WAGON ACROSS THE PLATTE RIVER

From an Ackerman lithographic print

PIONEERS OF THE WEST

As a young man, Simon Kenton served with George Rogers Clark (1752-1818), most comprehensive mind and most vivid figure among the pioneers of his era. Clark, who had made his home in the Kentucky district in 1776, was the first to divine the fact that the constant raids by Indians of the Old Northwest on settlements south of the Ohio were inspired by British officers north of it. With inadequate official support and less than two hundred volunteers, he set out in 1778 on an expedition to the Illinois. His youthful enthusiasm beat down disheartening obstacles; his ability and energy triumphed. In a few months he brought within the sphere of American influence practically all of the Northwest region save Detroit and minor posts on the Canada boundary; made peace-treaties with ten or a dozen tribes; and placed the United States in such a position that the American commissioners at Paris could insist upon the cession of territory subsequently divided into Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Completion of Clark's mission, denied to him, was fifteen years later entrusted to Major-General Anthony Wayne (1745-1796), the dashing "Mad Anthony" whose recapture of Stony Point by a bayonet attack at midnight had been the boldest and most spectacular feat of the Revolution. With about 2,000 regulars of the reorganized army and some 1,600 Kentucky militia,



ANTHONY WAYNE

Wayne in 1794 gave to the Northwestern warriors, again intractable, their final defeat. At Fort Greenville (on the site of what is now Greenville in Darke county, Ohio), he negotiated with them a treaty that made possible the peaceful occupation of the country from the Ohio to the head of Lake Superior. Various lands to which they renounced claim included the sites of the present cities of Chicago, Detroit, Fort Wayne, and Toledo. Wayne was the first of a series of United States army officers that must be recognized as pioneers.

In 1795 treaty arrangements for the joint navigation of the Mississippi were concluded with Spain, which had claimed exclusive rights to the river from its mouth to the Yazoo, or about where Vicksburg now stands. This was good news to the settlers between the Appalachians and the Mississippi; for they had thus free outlet to New Orleans for their trade. The



MERIWETHER LEWIS

From a drawing by St. Memin, which first appeared in the *Analectic Magazine*, April, 1816

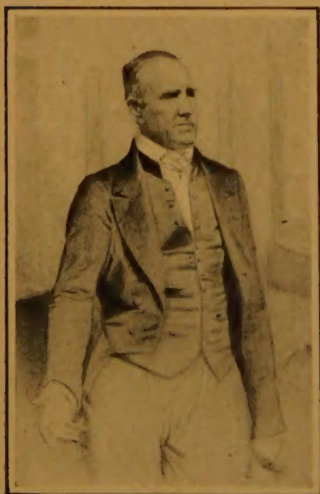
National Turnpike from the Atlantic to the Mississippi was not authorized until 1806; in 1795 the western roads were little better than the "traces" cut by pioneers, such as Boone's "Wilderness Road." The traces had been widened enough to let vehicles through; but such so-called roads were always difficult and at times impassable. Hence the Westerners turned to the streams; and for many years their goods were carried in lighters called "flat-boats," "keel-boats," and "arks," which were propelled by sweeps up the Ohio or drifted leisurely down the Mississippi to New Orleans. Lincoln made two voyages to New Orleans in flat-boats—the second from Sangamon county, Illinois, in a craft he had helped to build. River trade began to flourish along the present Missouri shore. Clark's expedition had effectually banished any idea Spain may have had of affirming dominion east of the river; and later the Spanish authorities at St. Louis, when they feared possible British attack from Canada, most hospitably welcomed American settlers into upper Louisiana. These came in considerable numbers—especially from Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and took up liberal land-grants. St. Louis was soon recognized as the key to the trans-Mississippi country; and Missouri was the center and starting-point of every sort of pioneer activity.



STATUE OF SAM HOUSTON
Modeled by Elizabeth Ney for
Statuary Hall, the Capitol,
Washington

Opening Up The Far West

After an obscure residence in what is now West Virginia, Boone, dispossessed from his lands in Kentucky, appeared about 1779 in Missouri, where the Spaniards, with a sense of regard superior to that of his own countrymen, made him a syndic (a kind of magistrate). From Missouri Captain Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) and Captain William Clark (1770-1838), brother of George Rogers Clark, set out in 1804—the year in which the United States took possession of upper Louisiana—on their historic journey to the mouth of the Columbia*; and from Missouri Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1779-1813) departed on his explorations. Missouri was the boyhood home of "Kit" Carson (1809-1868), a relative of Daniel Boone, and himself not unworthy of being styled the Boone of the Far West. In Missouri Moses Austin tarried, and thence he rode a thousand miles on horseback to San Antonio de Bexar to petition in person for the right to establish in Texas a colony of American immigrants. In Missouri Stephen Fuller Austin (1793-1836), Moses Austin's son, who later established the colony and so founded modern Texas, was a member of the territorial legislature in 1813-1819. Out of Missouri in 1843 went the "Great Immigration" of 900 persons to Oregon, where their presence determined the permanent ownership of that entire country. In Missouri



PORTRAIT OF HOUSTON
After a daguerreotype by Brady

*See Mentor Number 178, "The Lewis and Clark Expedition."

PIONEERS OF THE WEST



SAM HOUSTON

From a daguerreotype by Paige,
Washington

trappers and miners outfitted and traders prepared their merchandise. From Missouri southwest led the old Santa Fé Trail, over which for more than three-quarters of a century passed and repassed the pack-trains and the wagon caravans; the commerce with Mexico requiring in 1860 no less than 62,000 mules and oxen, 3,000 wagons, and 7,000 men. In Missouri was the eastern terminus of the pony-express, whose riders, fearless and tireless, carried the mails by relays across the plains.

Gradually the labors of Lewis and Clark, Pike, Bonneville, and Frémont spread knowledge of the middle and far West, of which American geographers had been more ignorant than to-day they are of Africa. Pike, then a lieutenant in the United States army, explored the headwaters of the Mississippi in 1805-1806; and later (1806-1807), having followed the Missouri and Osage rivers, traversed ter-

ritory now included in the states of Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado. He discovered the mountain afterward called Pike's Peak, in the ascent of which he failed, having in error taken a trail that brought him to the top of Mt. Cheyenne; and he also visited the Royal gorge of the upper Arkansas. When but thirty-four, while serving as adjutant and inspector-general in the War of 1812, he was killed in the attack on York (the present Toronto), Canada. The name of Benjamin L. E. Bonneville (1795-1878) is not now so well known as once it was, when Bonneville's journal, prepared for the press by Washington Irving, was a popular book, under the captivating title of "The Adventures of Captain Bonneville, U. S. A., in the Rocky Mountains and the Far West." Bonneville, on leave of absence from the army and acting chiefly on his own initiative, passed through country now included in Colorado and Wyoming into the basin of the Great Salt Lake, and thence to the Mexican province of California. Gone from 1831 to 1836, he was given up for dead and his name was stricken from the rolls of the army. He lived however, to a ripe age, and was in command



SAM HOUSTON'S HOME
In Houston, Texas



SCENE ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF SAN JACINTO, TEXAS

PIONEERS OF THE WEST

of the St. Louis barracks during the Civil War. John Charles Frémont (1813-1890), known as "the Pathfinder," led five expeditions that together ranged over a goodly portion of the West from the Mississippi valley to the Pacific. It was on the third of these (1846-1847) that he played, in the American "conquest" or occupation of California, a part that has been variously represented and often bitterly discussed.

On each of his first three expeditions Frémont owed much to the skill and prowess of Christopher ("Kit") Carson, a professional guide of very wide knowledge and a plainsman of the highest type, who afterward acted as guide to emigrant parties crossing the prairies, and, during the Civil War, was the trusted chief-of-scouts for the Union army in the Southwest. This Homeric man was preëminently the hero of the far Western frontier, and his fame survives in countless tales of his hardihood and daring. Other frontier scouts and guides also gave to the army the benefit of their keen sense, experience, and amazing knowledge of local topography; and their services were generously recognized in official reports. Such were "Jim" Bridger, a remarkable trapper, believed to be the first white man to see the Great Salt Lake (1824); James B. Hichox ("Wild Bill"); Amos Chapman, commemorated by Colonel Dodge; and William F. Cody (famous as "Buffalo Bill"), who died at Denver in 1917, aged seventy-one, the last of the race. Shortly before his death, Cody in an interview said: "All of them to-day—the best shots, I mean—can beat us old-timers every time. But," he added, "we did the work all the same. We had to." A. H. Hardy, an excellent judge, once declared that "Buffalo Bill" was the best shot from horseback that the world has ever seen.

Sam Houston and Davy Crockett

In Texas, Austin—patient, wise, just—a man to whom, as a Texan said, men delighted to entrust their property, their fortunes, and their lives—gladly resigned his leadership to Sam Houston (1793-1863). Houston, one of the picturesque figures of American annals, was born in Rockbridge county, in the Blue Ridge section of Virginia; passed a backwoods youth there and in Blount county, Tennessee; was adopted into a Cherokee household; rose quickly into political note; served two terms in Congress as a representative from Tennessee; wounded his man in one of the duels then so fashionable in both the older and the newer West; and was elected governor of his State. Successful, popular, nominated for a second term, he nevertheless resigned his office for personal reasons, quit Tennessee, and in 1832 went to Texas. There



THE JOLLY FLAT-BOAT MEN

After a painting by G. C. Bingham



A HUNTER IN THE ROCKIES

From a drawing by F. O. C. Darley

PIONEERS OF THE WEST

chosen to lead the forces of the Texan revolution, he roundly defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto (1836) with a little army of about 800, the pick of the pioneers, every man of whom furnished his own rifle. From that time until his death, as president of the Republic of Texas, governor of the State, and United States senator, he was easily the foremost man of that region. Cast in the frontier mould, Houston could sway a frontier audience by his oratory as well as lead frontiersmen to battle. In his view of the Indian question he was free of the general pioneer prejudice. "I am a friend of the Indian," he once said, "on the principle that I am a friend to justice. We are not bound to make them promises; but if a promise be made to an Indian, it ought to be regarded as sacredly as if it were made to a white man."

Forever identified with early Texas is also David ("Davy") Crockett (1786-1836), although it was in Tennessee that he gained his reputation as hunter, scout, marksman, story-teller, and all-around original character. This whimsical, valiant woodsman, whom Andrew Jackson could not intimidate, offered his services to the Texan revolution and fell in that most celebrated of all frontier fights—the defense of the Alamo. With him fell Lieutenant-Colonel William B. Travis, the commandant, whose letter announcing that he was besieged has been termed "the most heroic document among American historical records"; and Colonel James Bowie, reputed inventor of that famed frontier weapon, the bowie-knife. The volume of "Colonel Crockett's Exploits and Adventures in Texas," though professing to be autobiographical, unquestionably neither originated with Crockett nor was authorized by him; and it is not an authentic record. It is representative of a large body of spurious narratives that collected around the names of many pioneers, and in particular those of Boone, Crockett, and Carson. The true story of what such men were and did is more fascinating than any fiction of which they have been made the heroes.



From the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, by permission.

HOW THE UNITED STATES GRADUALLY INCREASED IN AREA

PIONEERS OF THE WEST

A FEW IMPORTANT DATES IN THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE WESTERN MOVEMENT

The Boones settle in North Carolina	About 1751
Daniel Boone first visits the Kentucky region	1767
Boone, John Finley, and others roam Kentucky	1769-71
John Sevier leads in forming the Watauga Association	1772
Boone founds Boonesborough and cuts the "Wilderness Road"	1775
George Rogers Clark brings the Old Northwest under American influence	1778-79
James Robertson establishes his settlement on the Cumberland	1780
Marietta, Ohio, is founded by Gen. Rufus Putnam and his associates	1788
A settlement is made on the site of the present Cincinnati by John Filson and others	1788
The Louisiana Territory is purchased from France	1803
Lewis and Clark conduct their expedition from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia	1804-06
Pike leads his expedition to "the sources of the Mississippi and through the Western parts of Louisiana"	1805-06
An act of Congress provides for the building of a great highway from the Atlantic to the Mississippi	1806
Pike makes his tour "through the interior parts of New Spain"	1806-07
Moses Austin leaves Missouri for Texas	1820
Stephen F. Austin conducts his first settlers to the lower Brazos	1821
Chicago is started on its career as a town	1833
Sam Houston wins the battle of San Jacinto and Texan independence	1836
Frémont begins his series of explorations	1842
Texas is admitted to the United States	1845
The boundary of the Oregon country is determined by treaty with Great Britain	1846
The treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo is signed, by which Mexico cedes to the United States a territory comprising the present California, Nevada and Utah; most of Arizona; a large portion of New Mexico; and parts of Wyoming and Colorado	1848
The United States acquires a tract of 45,535 square miles in the present Arizona and New Mexico, by purchase from Mexico for \$10,000,000 (the Gadsden Purchase)	1853
Transcontinental railway connection is established from the Atlantic to the Pacific	1869

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

THE OLD NORTHWEST	By B. A. Hinsdale
THE WINNING OF THE WEST. 6 volumes	By Theodore Roosevelt
THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT, 1763-98	By Justin Winsor
SAM HOUSTON	By George S. Bryan
DAVID CROCKETT AND EARLY TEXAN HISTORY	By John S. C. Abbott
CONQUEST OF THE NORTHWEST	By W. H. English
KIT CARSON, PIONEER OF THE FAR WEST	By John S. C. Abbott
*EXPEDITION OF ZEBULON M. PIKE. 3 volumes	Edited by Elliott Coues
ANTHONY WAYNE	By J. R. Spears
DANIEL BOONE	By Reuben Gold Thwaites
HOW GEORGE ROGERS CLARK WON THE NORTHWEST	By Reuben Gold Thwaites

*Out of print, but may be found in libraries.

*.*Information concerning these books may be had on application to the Editor of The Mentor.



DANIEL BOONE was born—son of Squire and Sarah (Morgan) Boone—in Oley, in what is now Berks County, Pennsylvania (about eight miles south-east of the present Reading), on November 2, 1734. (Some authorities give the date, February 11, 1735.) Cradled in the backwoods, he remained a woodsman all his days. Indians

were to him a usual sight. At twelve he received a rifle, and with this in the winter he hunted over the Neversinks. The meat of his game he cured for the family; the peltries he took to Philadelphia for barter. He learned "the three R's" from a sister-in-law; later we find him able to do rough surveying and keep notes of it.

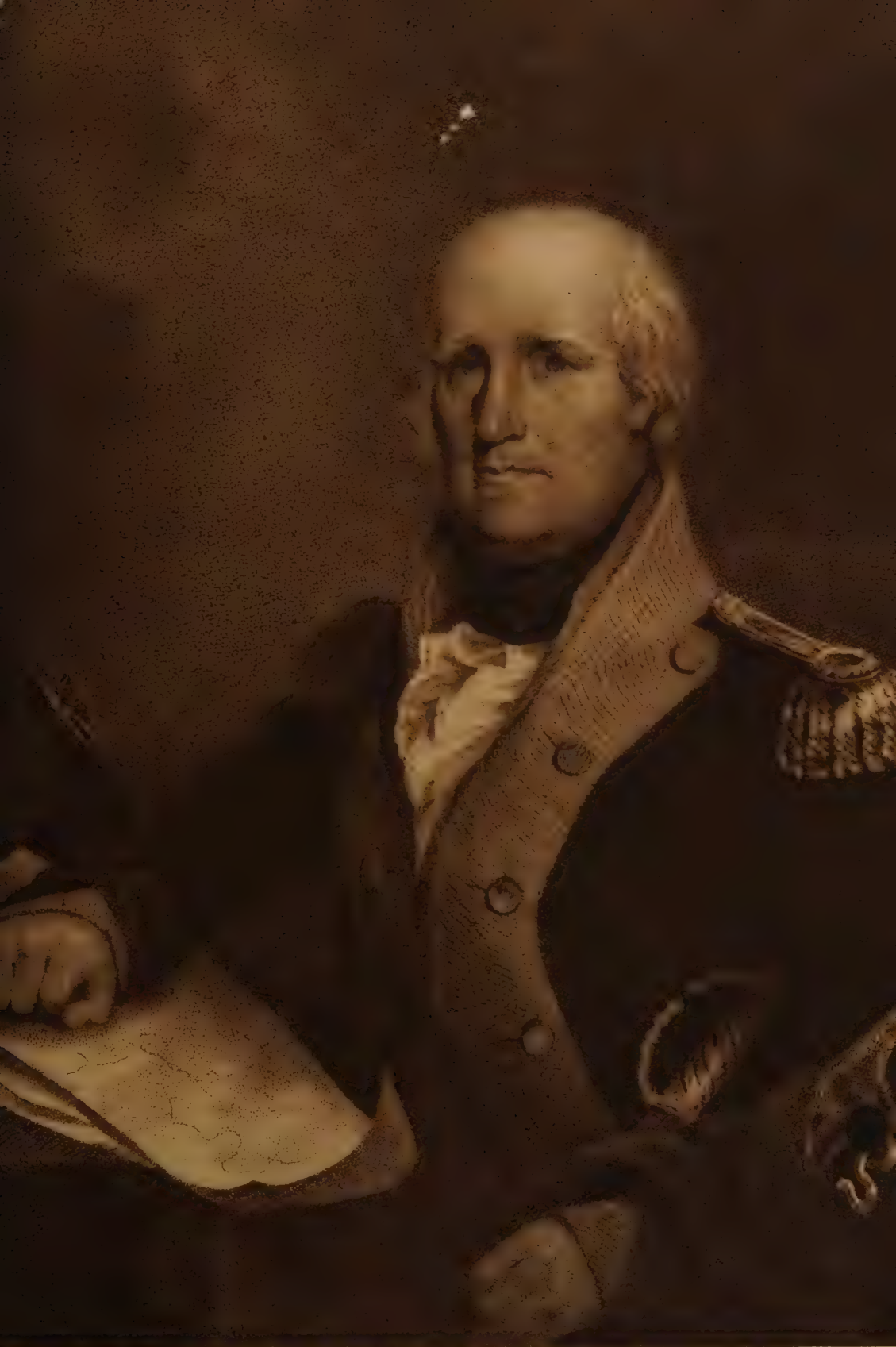
In 1750 Squire Boone left Oley for North Carolina, where (probably in 1751) he settled on the north fork of the Yadkin in the present Davie county. Daniel appears as a wagoner with Braddock; and in the disaster near Fort Duquesne he saved his life by escaping on one of his team. It was during Braddock's expedition that Boone first heard from one John Finley, rover and trader, of the Kentucky country; but years were to go by before he saw it. In the meantime he married Rebecca Bryan, wandered through southwestern Virginia and eastern Tennessee, and made a trip to Florida. Game grew scarcer in the Yadkin region; and on May 1, 1769, Boone, with Finley and four others, set out to view Kentucky. Having passed through the Cumberland gap, they made a station-camp in what is now Estill county. Hunting, climbing, and preparing peltries, Boone spent there what he afterward termed the happiest months of his life. In Kentucky he remained until March 1, 1771; his brother Squire (who had joined him in December, 1769) being from February, 1770, his only companion. Twice he was entirely alone—from May 1 to the end of July, 1770, and again for two months in the fall and early winter of that year. During the first period, without bread, salt, sugar, dog, or horse, and with but scanty ammunition, he explored the valleys of the Licking and the Kentucky, and went down the course of the Ohio to the site of the present Louisville. While making their way out to the Yadkin, the Boone brothers were set upon by Indians and robbed of all the peltries they had. Daniel reached home poorer than when he left; but he had seen Kentucky, the land of his ideals.

In 1775 four proprietors, of whom Col. Richard Henderson was chief, formed the Transylvania company, which, on the basis of Boone's reports of the country, proposed to establish in Kentucky a colony to be known as Transylvania. For this colony Boone was sent to found a capital. With an advance-party of some thirty he cut from the Holston to the Kentucky the earliest well-marked path through the trans-Appalachian wilderness; first known as "Boone's trace," later as "the Wilderness road." At Big Lick on

the Kentucky he laid out the site of Boonesborough. From the outset Transylvania met objection and opposition in many quarters; the Revolution ended all proprietary government, and in 1778 Virginia nullified the company's claims. In January, 1778, Boone headed a party that went to Lower Blue Licks to boil salt. There he was captured by Shawnees and taken to Little Chillicothe, their principal town, some three miles north of where Xenia now is. Though adopted, under the name of Big Turtle (Sheltowee), by Chief Black Fish, he was carefully watched; but at last he made his escape, and after a four-day journey through one hundred and sixty miles of forest—during which time he ate but one meal—he reached Boonesborough.

In 1780 Boone moved about five miles northeastward and built Boone's Station within the limits of Payette county, Virginia. There he served as lieutenant-colonel of militia, representative in the Virginia legislature, sheriff, and county lieutenant. From 1786 to 1788 he was keeping a tavern at Limestone (Maysville); and with this he combined surveying, hunting, trapping, and small trading along the Ohio. Having failed to make any of his land preëmptions in accordance with the technicalities of law, he was the victim of repeated suits of ejectment; and in the end, although the one man who had done most to bring Kentucky to general notice, he held there not a rood that he might call his own. During the years from 1788 to 1799 he was in the valley of the Great Kanawha (in the present West Virginia)—conducting a little shop at Point Pleasant, and later going to the vicinity of Charleston, where he acted as land-pilot, surveyor, and contractor for victualling the militia; was lieutenant-colonel of Kanawha county; and again was elected to the Virginia legislature. In the spring of 1799 with his heroic wife he made his final trek; seeking, as he said, "more elbow-room"—and also more game—beyond the Mississippi.

He settled in the Femme Osage district of Missouri; and there as a kind of local magistrate he dispensed a patriarchal justice among the French population. He made far trips through the wilds—penetrating at eighty to the Yellowstone country; and he was eagerly interested in tales of California. The latest real glimpse we have of him shows him in 1819 in a log-cabin, roasting a venison-steak at the end of a ramrod. In the words of one who knew him, "Decay came to him without infirmity, palsy, or pain"; and on September 26, 1820, he passed away.



GEORGE ROGERS CLARK



GEORGE ROGERS CLARK was born near Charlottesville (Albemarle County), Virginia, on November 19, 1752. Clark—a brother of William Clark, of Lewis and Clark fame—was a woodsman from youth. Like another Virginian, George Washington, he early became a surveyor. This red-headed, six-foot, imperious youngster knew like a book the trans-Appalachian territory he had traversed for the Ohio company and other employers. He knew, too, his fellow-pioneers, and through sheer personal influence could sway and lead those courageous but undisciplined men. They sent him (1776) as a delegate to the Virginia Assembly.

Familiar with conditions north of the Ohio, Clark became convinced that the continued attacks from the Old Northwest on Kentucky settlements were inspired and abetted by British officers. He was sure that unless the British posts were taken, Kentuckians would be harried indefinitely—perhaps driven back across the mountains, or wholly annihilated. On his own initiative he sent to Vincennes and Kaskaskia spies, of whom Simon Kenton was one; their reports were favorable to his plan, and he went across country to Williamsburg for consultation with Gov. Patrick Henry and the Council. The result was that, with a commission as lieutenant-colonel, he received £1,200 in a much depreciated currency and was empowered to raise seven companies of fifty men each. With less than 200 volunteers Clark on June 24, 1778, shot the Falls of the Ohio (at the site of the present Louisville) during a total eclipse of the sun; followed the Ohio to the deserted old French post of Fort Massac (near the present Moundsville, W. Va.); and thence on June 29th struck out for Kaskaskia. The distance was a hundred and twenty miles or thereabouts; the route difficult; there were neither wagons nor pack-animals. By evening of July 4th Clark's force—having marched for two days without food—was but three miles from Kaskaskia. After dark, Clark broke into the apparently unfortified place; seized de Rocheblave, the governor; and, in a quarter of an hour, was in possession. Capt. Joseph Bowman, with thirty mounted men, took Cahokia with similar ease. Late in July the French ran up the American flag over Fort Sackville at Vincennes; but in the following December, Hamilton occupied that town.

Thither Clark on February 5, 1779, set out from Kaskaskia, again with less than two hundred men—Americans and French. The river-bottoms of the Wabash and its tributaries lay flooded after prolonged rains; and rain continued during "nearly a third" of the march. For ten days on end the unshakable Clark kept his men struggling across the "drowned lands" through half-frozen water never less than three feet deep and sometimes up to the commander's shoulders; with no shelter,

no decent place for rest, and no real meal after February 18th. Attack was made on Fort Sackville throughout the night of the 23rd-24th; and toward the close of the 24th Hamilton surrendered this heavily-stocked post, defended by a trained garrison and ample artillery, to a little ragged, half-starved band of riflemen that had just made the most amazing forced march in all American history.

Practically the whole of the Old Northwest was thus brought under American influence; the French inhabitants now took the oath of allegiance, and treaties were made with numerous Indian tribes. But, through lack of official support, Clark was never able to execute his cherished project of taking Detroit. He built (1780) Fort Jefferson on the Mississippi, about five miles below the mouth of the Ohio; destroyed villages of hostile Indians at Chillicothe and Piqua (1780); and, promoted brigadier-general of Virginia militia, ravaged the Indian country along the Big Miami river. Then this man—who had planned and achieved a conquest that won vast territory for Virginia; who had expended his private means in the venture; who had enabled the American peace commissioners to demand of Great Britain (1783) that the western boundary of the United States be fixed at the Mississippi—was not only compelled, as he said, to see "Detroit lost for want of a few men," but actually was relieved of his command (July 2, 1783). On May 27, 1783, he was at Richmond, addressing to Governor Harrison an appeal for "a small sum of money on account." "The state will, I believe," he said, "fall considerably in my debt." It did—and when he had been some twenty years in his grave, it settled with his estate!

In 1793 Clark, stung by the treatment he had received, took the false step of accepting an empty commission as major-general from Citizen Genêt, French diplomatic agent in the United States. Genêt was developing a plot to drive the Spanish from their possessions at the mouth of the Mississippi and along the Gulf of Mexico, and thus to regain for France somewhat of her lost empire. Clark's part was to raise a filibustering "revolutionary legion" in the Mississippi valley. Prompt action by President Washington ended the conspiracy, and the French government recalled Genêt. Moody, paralyzed, crippled by the amputation of his left leg, Clark passed the later years of his life in Clarks-ville, across the Ohio from Louisville; and died at his sister's home near Louisville on February 13, 1818.





DAVY" CROCKETT was born on August 17, 1786—being a son of John and Rebecca (Hawkins) Crockett—in a place called Limestone, in Greene County, northeastern Tennessee. His earlier years are interesting as affording a specimen of frontier boyhood and youth. The family moved often; at the period of Davy's first recorded

adventures the elder Crockett was keeping a kind of hedge-inn on the road from Knoxville to Abingdon, Va. There he hired out Davy, then about twelve, to a passing drover bound for the vicinity of the Natural Bridge. Having made the trip thither on foot, Davy, after a few weeks of work for the drover, ran away home. Put at school, he attended for four days, thrashed the school bully, turned truant, fled to escape John Crockett's wrath, and was gone for two years. After rough experiences in various odd jobs he returned so grown and otherwise altered that a sister was the only one of the family who recognized him. Then he toiled for a year to pay John Crockett's debts; got a little crude elementary schooling; became a crack rifle-shot known as a prize-winner at frontier matches; married when eighteen; and started housekeeping with two cows, two calves, and fifteen dollars' worth of groceries.

In 1813-1814 he served in the Creek War under the command of Andrew Jackson, whom later he was boldly to oppose in politics. He was recognized as an excellent scout, and was present at the fight of Talladega (November 9, 1813). After the war, he settled (having lost his first wife and married again) in a locality known as Shoal Creek in the present Giles county, where he ran a grist-mill, a powder-mill, and a distillery. When, for the sake of preserving order, a temporary local government was framed in that district, Crockett was selected as a magistrate. He also was elected colonel of militia and served as a State representative. A freshet having swept away his mills, he removed to the wild Obion river country in the extreme northwestern part of Tennessee, and there built a cabin seven miles from the nearest neighbor. He was once more elected a representative, and became a mighty bear-hunter; making a record kill of one hundred and five animals in less than twelve months.

In 1827, after a campaign enlivened by his quick wit and homely anecdotes, Crockett was elected to a seat in the national House of Representatives; and in 1829 he was reelected. He did not make any particular mark as a statesman, but was regarded as perfectly honest and though nominally a Jackson Democrat, strictly independent in his views. His fellow-legislators chuckled over his sallies; people were inclined to lionize him; newspaper men found him "good copy." Dur-

ing his second term he won the dislike of Jackson and Jackson's supporters by open opposition to the President's Indian policy. Through various means, administration influence, paramount in Tennessee, was directed against him; and when in 1831 he was again a candidate, he was, to use his own phrase, "hunted down like a wild varmint." To the surprise of most political prophets, his fourth campaign (1833) proved successful.

In 1834 he made the trip described in "An Account of Col. Crockett's Tour to the North and Down East" (1835). It partook of the nature of a triumphal progress. Most persons had at least a curious interest in the man who had defied "Old Hickory." Everywhere he was received with tokens of honor, especially by the Young Democrats; and he spoke to thousands. As guest at a rifle-match in Jersey City, with a strange weapon and without a rest, he shot a quarter-dollar to bits at forty yards. From a Roxbury (Mass.) manufacturer he received a waterproof hunting-coat; the Young Democrats of Philadelphia presented to him a handsome rifle. Among places of interest visited by him were Faneuil hall, Bunker Hill monument (not yet completed), the Charlestown navy-yard, and the mills at Lowell. In 1835 he stood for reelection to Congress. The Jackson machine in Tennessee made extra effort to defeat him, and defeated he was; not without suspicion of fraud. He was greatly disappointed and disgusted—so greatly that he set his face toward Texas, haven for many a disappointed and disgusted man.

By January 5, 1836, Crockett was in Nacogdoches. A provisional government had been organized by the Texans; and the Mexicans were beginning an invasion in force. Some revolutionist spirits were giving a banquet at Nacogdoches; and when it was learned that Crockett was in the town, a committee was sent to invite his company. His arrival was greeted with three cheers—followed by more when he announced his intention of becoming a Texan. Forthwith he was escorted to the office of a local justice, where he took the oath. In a mood for desperate chances, he joined the garrison of the Alamo, which was besieged from February 23 and on March 6 was taken by storm. In the hand-to-hand struggle that ensued, Crockett fell, overpowered by numbers, surrounded by a heap of Mexicans he had slain.



STEPHEN FULLER AUSTIN



THE story of what Stephen Austin did and was really begins with Moses Austin (1767-1821), Stephen's father, a New Englander from Durham in Middlesex County, Connecticut. Moses Austin was a merchant who turned pioneer. Partner in an importing business in Philadelphia, he removed to Richmond, Va., to

take charge of a branch that the firm had opened there. From Richmond he went to Wythe county in southwestern Virginia as manager of lead mines owned by the concern. The mines in Wythe county did not, however, turn out to be productive enough to suit him; so in 1796 he started for Missouri, of whose lead-fields he had heard promising reports. He travelled by way of Boone's "Wilderness road" to Louisville, and thence to Kaskaskia; and in what is now Washington County, Mo., he obtained from the Spanish authorities a grant of land on which lead-mines were located. In 1819 he made to Stephen, his son, the suggestion of establishing in Texas—then Spanish territory—an American colony.

Stephen Fuller Austin was born in Austinville, Wythe county, Virginia, on November 3, 1793. He was well educated at New London, Conn., and at Transylvania University (Lexington, Ky.). From 1813 to 1819 he was a member of the territorial legislature of Missouri. As the first step in the colonizing project, he went in April, 1819, to Long Prairie on the Red River, there to take up a farm that might be used as headquarters of the enterprise. In the autumn of 1820 Moses Austin took on horseback the tedious journey from Washington County to San Antonio de Bexar—eight hundred miles of it, at least; probably nearer a thousand—in order to interview Governor Martinez. A petition of Austin that he might be allowed to bring into Texas three hundred families from the United States was finally forwarded to the authorities of the Eastern Internal Provinces. On the way back through the Texas wilderness to Natchitoches, La., he underwent such hardships and exposure that his health was seriously affected, and, during the next summer, he died, having not long before learned that his petition had been granted.

Stephen Austin had been at New Orleans, enlisting support for the proposed colony and enrolling immigrants. Now, on the way to San Antonio, he received news of his father's death. He therefore obtained recognition from the governor, who approved his scheme of land-apportionment and empowered him to pick out along the Colorado river a location for his colony. Having selected a tract between the lower waters of the Colorado and the Brazos, he brought in the first detachment of settlers in December, 1821. The first two years were made distressful by the lack of supplies, which had been sent by water but had failed to reach them; by Indian harassment; and from other

causes. Unfortunately, also, it was necessary for Austin to be absent from the colony at this crucial time. From March, 1822, to August, 1823, he was gone on a mission to Mexico City. Mexico had declared its independence and Austin was compelled to get a renewal of his grant. To reach the Mexican capital he had to ride some 1,200 miles through a country given over to disorder. The decree of confirmation that he finally, by his quiet persistence, obtained, enabled him to administer justice and to organize his colonists into a militia body commanded by himself. In 1823 the capital of the colony was fixed at San Felipe de Austin (now San Felipe) on the Brazos (not to be confused with the present Austin on the Colorado)—and a period of successful growth began. Austin administered affairs with firm moderation.

When a convention of Texans met on April 1, 1833, at San Felipe and drafted a state constitution for Texas (Sam Houston being chairman of the committee that framed it), Austin was appointed to submit the proposed constitution to the authorities at Mexico City and to urge its approval. He was not in sympathy with the aggressive majority that controlled the convention, but as it was a majority he respected its wishes and went—at his own expense. After six months' labor, not having been able to achieve his object, he started homeward in December. At Saltillo he was arrested; and from there he was sent back to Mexico City and to imprisonment for a year and a half. This was the result of the fact that a letter he had written suggesting to the people of Bexar (the western department of Texas) that they aid in the movement for a better local government, had come to the knowledge of Farias, the acting-president.

When he at last reached home, he found the revolution well under way. For a short time he served as commander of the Texan forces in the field. In November, 1835, Austin went as a commissioner to the United States, where, although he could not be received at Washington, he succeeded in raising extensive loans. In 1836, as a candidate for the presidency of the newly-founded Republic of Texas, he received less than 600 out of a total of more than 6,000 votes. Sam Houston, who was elected, appointed Austin secretary of state; and in the midst of his labors in that office Austin died, in December, 1836. Such reward as he had enjoyed was expressed in the absolute confidence of the best Texans in his judgment and character.





JOHN CHARLES FRÉMONT was born in Savannah, Georgia, on January 21, 1813; his mother a Virginian, his father a Frenchman. He attended for a time the college of Charleston, S. C., and in 1833 became instructor in mathematics on board U. S. S. "*Natchez*."

Appointed to be professor of mathematics in the navy, he resigned in order to act as assistant-engineer of a surveying expedition whose main object was to find a pass through the Appalachians for a projected railway between Cincinnati and Charleston. In 1838 he was commissioned second lieutenant of topographical engineers in the United States army; and in 1838-1840 was assistant to Jean N. Nicollet (1786-1843), in work for the war department. His first independent task was the survey in 1841 of the lower waters of the Des Moines river for the Federal government. In the same year he was married to Jessie Benton, talented daughter of Thomas H. Benton (1782-1858), originally a Tennessean, for thirty years a United States senator from Missouri, and very prominently identified as a public man with the westward movement beyond the Mississippi.

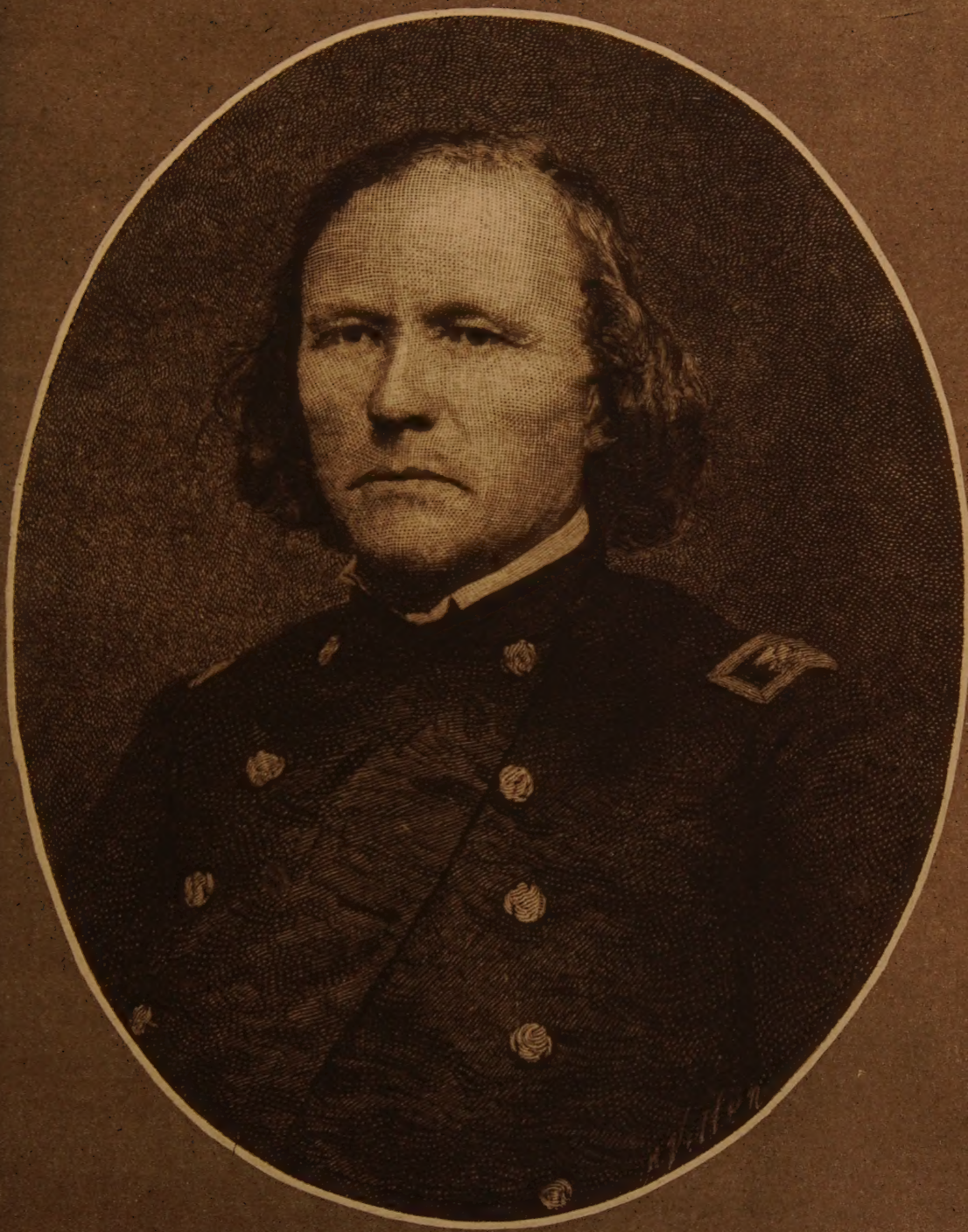
It was Frémont's exceeding good fortune to have associated with him on the first three expeditions that most capable guide, Kit Carson. Carson's unrivaled plainscraft and his comprehension of Indian nature and Indian tongues were of great help. The special features of the first expedition (1842) were the exploration of South Pass and its vicinity (in the southwestern part of the present Wyoming); the survey of the pass; and the ascent of Frémont's peak (13,720 feet), the second loftiest point of the Wind River range. After Frémont's survey of South Pass, the favored route to the Pacific was by that way over the "Oregon trail"; and later the Union Pacific railway followed the same course. On the second expedition (1843-1844) Frémont continued his explorations to the Great Salt Lake and from there, along the line of travel, to Fort Vancouver upon the Columbia river. From The Dalles of the Columbia he then went by the valley of the Deschutes river, at the eastern base of the Cascade range, to the Klamath lakes; thence to Fort Sutter (on the site of the present Sacramento) at the junction of the American and Sacramento rivers; southward along the base of the Sierra Nevada; across the mountains; and by the eastern side of the Great Basin back to the Great Salt Lake. Frémont's report of this difficult and adventurous trip gave Americans their first real idea of the country west of the Rockies. Upon the third expedition (1845-1846) Frémont, now a brevet captain, went by way of the upper head-waters of the Arkansas to the southern side of the Great Salt Lake, thence by the Great Basin into California.

It was the eve of the Mexican War. The extent of American immigration into California had made Mexican officials sus-

picious; and they soon ordered Frémont out of the province. Frémont responded by pitching a camp on an eminence overlooking Monterey, fortifying the position, and hoisting the American flag. Shortly afterward, he started for the Oregon country. Dispatches from Washington caused him to retrace his steps. On June 14, 1846, a band of American settlers occupied Sonoma, unfurled a flag carrying the device of a bear, and proposed an independent state. Around Frémont's responsibility for this filibustering act, much discussion has centered. However, on July 7 Commodore J. D. Sloat seized Monterey and proclaimed California to be United States territory. He was succeeded in command by Commodore R. F. Stockton, who commissioned Frémont a major; and in 1846-1847 Stockton and Frémont finished the conquest of California and organized a government. Then Brig.-Gen. S. W. Kearny arrived, under directions from Congress to subdue California and establish a temporary civil government. Ignoring Kearny, Stockton appointed Frémont commandant and governor. But Kearny's authority was in time confirmed, and Kearny sent Frémont under arrest to Washington. There a court-martial found Frémont guilty of mutiny, disobedience, and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and sentenced him to be dismissed from the service. The penalty was remitted by President Polk, but Frémont forthwith resigned the commission of lieutenant-colonel of infantry that had been bestowed on him in May, 1846.

Frémont's fourth expedition (1848-1849) was an attempt to solve a problem in which he was deeply interested—the practicability of a railway line to the Pacific, especially under conditions of snowfall. The undertaking was not at that time successful. Several of the party died; the others suffered much from cold and lack of food. On his fifth expedition (1853-1854) Frémont resumed this enterprise and demonstrated the feasibility of a central route for all-year use.

His subsequent career must be briefly summarized: In 1850-1851 a senator from California; in 1856 the presidential candidate of the Republicans (in their first campaign) and the "Know-Nothings," but defeated by Buchanan; in 1861 in command of the western department, with headquarters at St. Louis; in 1862 defeated by Ewell at Cross Keys, Va. (June 8); from 1878 to 1881 governor of Arizona territory; in 1890 commissioned major-general and placed on the retired list. He died in New York on July 13, 1890.



CHRISTOPHER (better known as "Kit") Carson is the representative pioneer beyond the Mississippi, occupying a place somewhat analogous to that which Boone holds beyond the Alleghanies. Carson, a relative of Boone, was, like Boone, wholly at home in his wild environment and thoroughly attached to it; a quiet, resolute skilful man, of whom Frémont wrote, "... With me, Carson and truth mean the same thing."

Kit Carson was born in Madison County in east-central Kentucky on December 24, 1809. His parents, Kentucky pioneer folk, removed to north-central Missouri when he was a year old, and settled in what now is Howard County. This new home was northwest of the district to which Boone had gone about a decade before; it was well out on the frontier, so that at first the Carsons lived in a little community within the walls of a log fort, around which land was tilled under protection of an armed guard. Amid such border conditions, then, Kit grew up. For a couple of years he was apprenticed to a saddler. In 1826, when he was seventeen, he made his first trip to Santa Fé over the famous trail, survey of which had been begun by the Federal Government in the previous year. After that, the routine of a saddle-maker's shop was not for him. He turned to the independent life of a hunter, trapper, and fur-trader, occasionally taking part in expeditions against Indian marauders. In this manner he gained a minute knowledge of a great portion of the far western country, and familiarity with Indian speech and traits.

For eight years, from 1832 to 1840, he was hunter for Bent's Fort, a trading-post on the Arkansas river in southeastern Colorado, conducted by Bent and St. Vrain, frontier merchants. The game that fell to his rifle kept the post fully supplied with meat. He did not roam afoot, as the trans-Appalachian hunters had done, but was mounted on "Apache," a favorite horse. All the while, his reputation as a shot, especially in pursuit of the bison, was extending; and his influence among the redmen was increasing. In 1842 he returned to Missouri for a visit; but so rapid and so numerous had immigration been that he found things there altered almost beyond recognition. It was at this time that he was engaged by Lieut. John C. Frémont to act as chief guide of Frémont's first exploring expedition. He also accompanied Frémont's second and third expeditions. His experience and remarkable store of information had much to do with the success of all these undertakings—a fact freely recognized by Frémont in official reports and elsewhere.

After the second Frémont expedition

(1843-1844) Carson became a rancher on the Little Cimarron river in northeastern New Mexico, at a point about forty-five miles east of Taos. His first wife, an Indian, had died; and he had married a Mexican, Señora Jarimilla. When the great rush to the Pacific coast set in, he was kept busy as a professional guide, conducting immigrant and other parties across the plains and over the Rockies. He was made Indian agent at Taos in 1854.

When the Civil War broke out the inhabitants of New Mexico were rather indifferent in their attitude; but a Confederate invasion of the Territory was the signal for a manifestation of loyalty to the Federal government. Gen. Henry Hopkins Sibley marched into New Mexico with a force of about 3,800—men who, to make matters worse, were Texans. Antipathy to Texans had existed in New Mexico ever since 1841, when troops sent by President Lamar of the Republic of Texas made a blundering and futile attempt to enforce a claim to all New Mexico east of the Rio Grande. Sibley won a fight at Valverde (February 21, 1862), and seized both Albuquerque and Santa Fé; but eventually he was driven back to Texas with the loss of about half of his original command. During the war Carson was active as the leader of the irregulars who took part in a guerrilla warfare in the southwestern country. He was made a brevet brigadier-general for gallantry at Valverde and other distinguished service.

Previous to the cession of New Mexico by Mexico to the United States, the Navajo Indians had come to have a contempt of white men and white men's rule. They attacked both the white settlers and the inoffensive Pueblos, plundering and killing pretty much as they liked. During the Civil War, while the efforts of the troops were concentrated against Confederate invaders, the Navajos took advantage of the situation and began wholesale depredations. Carson completely subdued them in 1863, and made most of them prisoners. After their release in 1867 they settled down to peace and prosperity, holding large flocks of sheep and weaving the excellent blankets and rugs known by their name. The war over, Carson again took up his duties as Indian agent; and that office he held until his death, which occurred at Old Fort Lyon in southeastern Colorado on May 23, 1868.

WRITTEN FOR THE MENTOR BY GEORGE S. BRYAN

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T H E O P E N L E T T E R

Of all American pioneer figures, undoubtedly the quaintest was "Davy" Crockett. He was what the older English writers called "an original," by which they meant a person of a certain decided individuality—a certain original tang. A cheerful companion, and a good spinner of yarns, he was a dead sure shot and a reliable support for his friends in time of trouble. He was, moreover, a hard fighting politician as well as a sturdy pioneer.

★ ★ ★

Daniel Boone was not, as commonly has been supposed, the first white man to enter and explore Kentucky, or to pilot permanent settlers there. But, by virtue of his love of the free forest life, his many romantic adventures, and the wide range of his wanderings—which have often been celebrated in story—and his personal combination of the best pioneer qualities, he holds a special place of his own in the history of the Middle West.

★ ★ ★

From the foundation of Stephen Austin's American Colony in Mexican Texas leads a chain of events—including the Texas revolt of 1836, the annexation of Texas in 1845, the Mexican War of 1846-1847, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo and the grant of territory provided in it, and the remarkable development of the two States of Texas and California. The historical and political significance of Austin's life work is, therefore, plain. Founder of a republic greater in area than France and England combined, Austin was unique among American pioneers. As a man he was a fine American type, not only in his ability as an executive and diplomat, but also in his zealous toil, his patience, his perseverance, his vision, and his unselfish devotion.

Frémont did not, in a strict sense, merit his once popular title of "The Pathfinder." None of Frémont's expeditions had the romantic elements attaching to that of the two captains, Lewis and Clark, though his explorations of the trans-Mississippi frontier were made at a time when the question of territorial expansion in that quarter was, to the general public, a far more vital one than it had been in 1804-1806. In the matters of distance covered, territory examined, and contributions to geography and other sciences, he stands, however, foremost among the exploring pioneers in the westward movement. Furthermore, his accounts of his journeyings were most uncommon—if not unique—among official reports, in the lively interest of their narrative and their admirable literary style.

★ ★ ★

Kit Carson is the representative pioneer beyond the Mississippi, occupying a place there somewhat like that which Daniel Boone holds in the story of the land beyond the Alleghanies. Carson, who was a relative of Boone, was, like Boone, wholly at home in a wild environment and thoroughly attached to it. He was a quiet, skilful, resolute man of whom Frémont wrote, "with me, Carson and Truth mean the same thing."

George Rogers Clark was pronounced by the historian, Reuben Gold Thwaites, "the most famous of all border leaders." In breadth of vision, native ability, and heroic accomplishment, he outranked other pioneers. His services must appear even more remarkable when it is considered that they were rendered before he was thirty. The brilliant achievement of his early years shines through the shadows that darkened his later life.

W. S. Uffat
EDITOR

THE MENTOR

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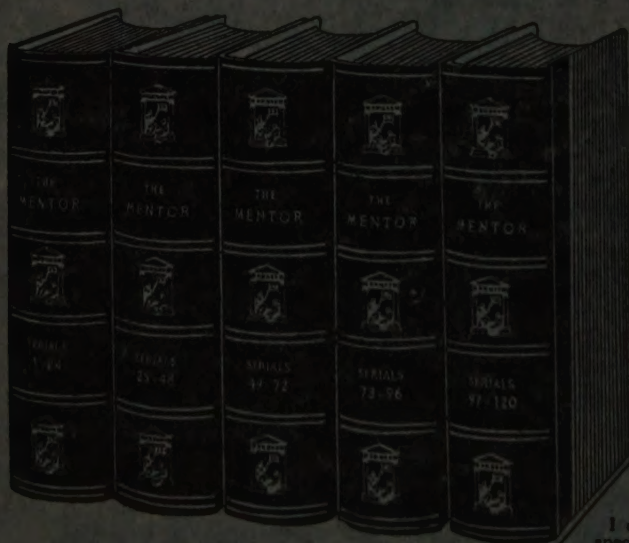
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